

University of Waterloo
SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the June 17, 2024 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Sue Ann Campbell, Jeff Casello (co-chair), David Clausi, Robert de Loe, Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean (co-chair), Mrittika Dreesha, Bernard Duncker, Anna Esselment, Ana Ferrer, Bertrand Guenin, Abhishesh Homagain, Julie Joza, Joseph Meleshko, Marina Mourtzakis, Nicholas Pellegrino, Martin Ross, Marianne Simm, Siva Sivoththaman, Mike Szarka, Tim Weber-Kraljevski (secretary), Kevin White.

Resources/Guests: Elliot Biro, Catherine Burn, Gen Gauthier-Chalifour, Ameen Hussain-Aamir, Maryam Latifpoor-Keparoutis, Alex Lovi, Carrie MacKinnon, Ryan McGuinness, Kate Mercer, Justin Wan, Richard Wikkerink.

Absent: Steven Bednarski, Phil Bigelow *, Alison Hitchens*, Neela Hassan, Ian Milligan* Shirley Tang, Clarence Woudsma.
*regrets

Organization of Meeting: Jeff Casello took the chair, and Tim Weber-Kraljevski acted as secretary. The secretary advised that a quorum was present. The agenda was approved without formal motion.

The chair informed members that Council received requests by members of the community under Bylaw 1, section 9.01 to give representations.

Representations

Ameen Hussain-Aamir addressed Council, speaking to sentiments raised by the Muslim community on campus regarding concerns with the University's research partnerships, particularly the partnership with Technion.

Alex Lovi and Elliot Biro addressed Council, speaking to their experience on campus as members of the Jewish community, and to concerns with the recent calls for the University to sever ties with Israeli institutions, specifically with Technion.

The chair thanked those who provided representations.

1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

CONSENT AGENDA

The proposed new courses SYDE 620 and SYDE 640 under item 5a. were removed from the consent agenda for discussion, and following concerns raised of possible overlap of courses within the Faculty of Mathematics, Sivoththaman agreed to revise the report from the Faculty of Engineering to remove the approval of the proposed new courses SYDE 620 and SYDE 640.

Council heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items of the consent agenda. Ferrer and Guenin. Carried with one abstention.

2. MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2024 MEETING

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

3. RESEARCH ETHICS

Council approved the membership update for the Human Research Ethics Board (HREB), as distributed.

4. GRADUATE AWARDS'

Council approved item a. and received items b.-e. for information.

5. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS

Council approved item a.-d. on behalf of Senate, as revised.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The chair informed members that the new Academic Quality Enhancement (AQuE) Committee of Senate was approved by Senate at the May 6, 2024 meeting, and encouraged members interested in being a member of the AQuE Committee to reach out to himself or the secretary.

7. CO-CHAIR'S REMARKS

Dean spoke to the following: protests taken place on campus, Senate's support a taskforce to look at institution agreements, and encouraging members who are interested to participate in the taskforce; and the Bouchard Report from the Advisory Panel on the Federal Research Support System, the plan being developed to restructure the Tri-Agencies, and the efforts within the University to provide feedback within the short timeline that has been allotted to do so, thanking those tasked with undertaking those efforts.

Casello spoke to the following: the increase of the annual support for the Provost's Programs for Black and Indigenous Postdoctoral Scholars and for Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Scholars from \$60,000 to \$70,000 in response to recent increases in scholarships by the Tri-Agency; convocation, changes made to address concerns with protests, and thanking those who participated; and thanking Guenin and Bigelow for their service on Council, as their terms as Associate Deans were ending.

8. SGRC AGENDA SUBCOMMITTEE AND SGRC CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Casello spoke to the history of Council restructuring, the concerns of the Associate Deans, Research, and presented the proposal to create two subcommittees of Council. Members discussed: continued concerns of the Associate Deans, Research which they felt the proposal did not address, particularly to have more research focused strategic discussions and to not be involved in approving curricular items; and how large research items are approved by Dean's Council and creating pathways leading to Dean's Council that includes the Research Operations Committee (ROC). Discussion on ROC and the restructuring of Council will be continued at a future meeting.

9. HEALTH FUTURES AND CARE NEXT COALITION

Burns presented on Health Futures, speaking to the vision, core strategy, the community and its focus and collaborations, the connections with the Global Futures Office, and development pathway. Burns also presented on CareNext, speaking to its propose, how it is organized, its three phases, Waterloo's current engagement, and the expected benefits.

Members divided into breakout groups and discussed the following: What health initiatives are members are working on that might advance goals in their Faculty strategic plans, and if they can be tied to the Health Futures vision; how can the CareNext collaboration be a vehicle to advance initiatives in education, research or innovation; and what CoPs are important to develop.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Dean spoke to Casello's accomplishments as Associate Vice President, Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs; and thanked him for his service in the role and to Council.

With no further business in the open session, Council moved into confidential session. The only item was the approval of the confidential minutes of the May 6, 2024 meeting, which were approved. There was no other business.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 16, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in NH 3318

June 27, 2024

Tim Weber-Kraljevski
Associate University Secretary